bearing a tronsponder for Doordarshan telecasts; and

(b) what specific programmes are proposed to be telecast with the help of ASIASAT transponder?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) The negotiations under the auspices of the Department of Space for hiring requisite capacity in the space segment on ASIASAT Satellite held in December, 1991 did not prove to be successful. The proposed facility was envisaged to be used primarily for back-up for the distribution of National Service in the event of contingency situation in INSAT 1D and to provide regional service in identified Border States.

Permission to Foreign News Agencies

481. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had any plan to permit access to foreign agencies and media to Indian newspapers; and

(b) whether the enforcement thereof has been deferred or frozen; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Foreign news agencies can have access to Indian newspapers only through an Indian News Agency. Besides no foreign-owned periodical can be published from India and foreign pericidicals/ newspapers are also not allowed to bring out Indian editions. There had been some requests for liberalisation of policy and consultations have been initiated with concerned organisations including Press Council of India. However, no decision has been taken to change the existing policy.

Agreement for a Russian Transponder for PTI

482. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Press Trust of India (PTI) has negotiated an agreement with the Russian space authorities to seek the services of a transponder; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement and the cost involved therein?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) PTI have informed that they have not directly entered into any agreement with Russian Space Authorities for a transponder. They have further stated that a private Indian Company has negotiated for the service of two transponders on the Russian Ekran 15 Satellite for possible broadcast of Indian television programmes in the region. Government do not have details of the negotiations or the costs involved.

Formulation of Advertisement Policy

483. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps, if any, have been taken or are being taken to formulate a clear and articulate policy document on the Government's advertisement policy as recommended by the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha in its 8th Report, presented on March 5, 1992; and

(b) what are the norms and guidelines followed at present in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The report of the Estimates Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha on March 5, 1992. A study has been initiated on the recommendations contained in

the report. The Estimates Committee have recommended that the guidelines should be finalised within six months.

(b) At present, the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity places advertisements in various newspapers/ journals on behalf of various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and a number of Public Sector Undertakings and autonomous bodies keeping in view the publicity requirements of the various social objectives of the Government and the availability of funds for the purpose

धारावाहिक "कृष्ण" का प्रसारण

484. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**
श्री रणजीत सिंह :
डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि श्री रामानन्द सागर द्वारा निर्मित और निर्देशित धारावाहिक "श्री कृष्ण" क प्रसारण की अभी तक अनुमति नहीं दी गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त धारावाहिक को दूरदर्शन पर प्रसारित करने के लिए आवेदन कब प्राप्त हुआ था;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि अनेक सांसदों मनीषियों, और विद्वानों और अन्य लोगों ने भी इस धारावाहिक को दूरदर्शन पर प्रसारित करने का अनुरोध किया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस मामले में क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास) : (क) और (ध) चूंकि यह मामला केन्द्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो को सौंप दिया गया है, इसलिये अक्तूबर, 1990 की प्रायोजित स्कीम के अधीन प्राप्त प्रस्तावों के बारे में अंतिम परिणाम स्थगित कर दिये गये गये हैं ।

(ख) अक्तूबर, 1990 के दौरान।

(ग) जी, हां ।

Conditions for Working of Foreign News Societies in the Country

485. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the conditions on which Government have allowed the foreign news societies to work in the country; and

(b) whether it is likely to harm the National news societies in anyway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) As per existing policy, foreign news agencies can operate in India only through Indian news agencies which have control over the selection of news. This policy protects the interests of Indian news agencies.

Implementation of Minimum wages act

486. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minimum Wages Act is not being implemented in a number of industrial units in the country at present;

(b) if so, whether Government have carried out a survey of the various industrial units both in private and public sector where this act is not being implemented properly;

(c) what are the reasons for non- implementation of the Act; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to enforce the implementation of the Act?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) Both Central Government and the State Governments are the appropriate Governments under